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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 15 June 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text (in English and Russian) of the joint statement by the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America on principles of strategic stability signed in Moscow on 4 June 2000 (see annex).

We would be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly under item 74 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Sergei **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Richard **Holbrooke**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 June 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Joint statement by the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America on principles of strategic stability

1. The Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America agree on the need to maintain strategic nuclear stability. Agreements between them help accomplish this objective.

2. They are dedicated to the cause of strengthening strategic stability and international security. They agree that capability for deterrence has been and remains a key aspect of stability and predictability in the international security environment.

3. The Presidents, welcoming the ratification of the START-II Treaty and related documents by the Russian Federation, look forward to the completion of the ratification process in the United States.

4. They announce that discussions will intensify on further reductions in the strategic forces of the Russian Federation and the United States within the framework of a future START-III Treaty, and on ABM issues, in accordance with the Moscow Statement of 1998 and the Cologne Statement of 1999 by the Presidents.

5. They agree on the essential contribution of the ABM Treaty to reductions in offensive forces, and reaffirm their commitment to that Treaty as a cornerstone of strategic stability.

6. They agree that the international community faces a dangerous and growing threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including missiles and missile technologies, and stress their desire to reverse that process, including through existing and possible new international legal mechanisms. They agree that this new threat represents a potentially significant change in the strategic situation and international security environment.

7. They agree that this emerging threat to security should be addressed and resolved through mutual cooperation and mutual respect of each other's security interests.

8. They recall the existing provision of the ABM Treaty to consider possible changes in the strategic situation that have a bearing on the provisions of the Treaty, and, as appropriate, to consider possible proposals for further increasing the viability of the Treaty.

9. The Presidents reaffirm their commitment to continuing efforts to strengthen the ABM Treaty and to enhancing its viability and effectiveness in the future, taking into account any changes in the international security environment.

10. In reinforcing the effectiveness of the ABM Treaty under present and prospective conditions, the Russian Federation and the United States of America

attach great importance to enhancing the viability of the Treaty through measures to promote greater cooperation, openness and trust between the sides.

11. The Russian Federation and the United States of America note the importance of the consultative process and reaffirm their determination to continue consultations in the future to promote the objectives and implementation of the provisions of the ABM Treaty.

12. The key provisions recorded in our agreements and statements, including at the highest level, create a basis for both countries' activities regarding strategic arms under present-day conditions.

13. Such an approach creates confidence that the further strengthening of strategic stability and further reductions in nuclear forces will be based on a foundation that has been tested over decades and advances both countries' interests and security.

14. The Presidents have directed the development of concrete measures that would allow both sides to take necessary steps to preserve strategic stability in the face of new threats, and have called on their ministers and experts to prepare a report for review by the Presidents.

15. They agree that issues of strategic offensive arms cannot be considered in isolation from issues of strategic defensive arms and vice versa — an interrelationship that is reflected in the ABM Treaty and aims to ensure equally the security of the two countries.

16. The Russian Federation and the United States of America intend to base their activities in the area of strategic offensive and defensive arms on the principles set forth in this document.

The President of the Russian Federation
(*Signed*) Vladimir V. **Putin**

The President of the United States of America
(*Signed*) William J. **Clinton**

Moscow
4 June 2000